

Date: 07 January 2021

Our Reference: FOIA-2021-150

RE: Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

I write in response to your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or 'FoIA 2000') request dated 8 December 2021 and received by the College on 15 December 2021, in which you requested

“the catalogue of the National policing Library (excluding entries non-disclosable under both EIR and FOI) to include as much information as possible from the catalogue and at least the following fields for each record:

- -name (surname first),
- -title of publication
- -date of publication
- -place of publication
- -ISBN or OCLC if any
- -National Police Library catalogue or reference number
- -a description or abstract of contents, if any,
- -the subject or library category of the item (e.g. “fiction”, “law”, “jurisprudence”, “mathematics”, “interrogation”, etc.)

Please may I have this in CSV form, and sent to me by post on CD-ROMs or on data-friendly”

When a request for information is made under FoIA 2000, a public authority has a general duty under section 1(1) of the Act to inform an applicant whether the requested information is held. There is then a general obligation to communicate that information to the applicant. If a public authority decides that the information should not be disclosed because an exemption applies, it must, under section 17(1) cite the appropriate section or exemption of the Act and provide an explanation for relying upon it.

It is important to note that a freedom of information request is not a private transaction. Both the request itself and any information disclosed are considered suitable for open publication, that is, once access to information is granted to one person under the legislation, it is then considered public information and must be communicated to any individual should a request be received. In light of this, our responses and disclosures are published on our external website at a later date.

Decision

After conducting careful searches relating to your request, I can confirm there is information held in relation to your request however we are not required to provide this to you as this information is reasonably accessible by other means. Section 21(1) of the FoIA 2000 states that information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

I note that before making this request you have advised that you tried to use the catalogue's search function but had been unsuccessful. You also provided the suggestion that the catalogue be searchable by the public through the College's website.

I have made a search of the catalogue myself, through both my work computer and personal device, and was able to undertake the search on both occasions. I contacted the library to ascertain whether there would be any reason why the search function hadn't worked for you. They advised that the catalogues are freely available on our website at the following address <https://www.college.police.uk/library>. They also advised that the catalogue is searchable by the public through the College's website and provided the following direct link to the classic catalogue, which is the best place to search if you do not have an OpenAthens account: <https://library.college.police.uk/HeritageScripts/Hapi.dll/search1>.

There are two ways to access the library catalogue, with an OpenAthens login and without. Both will provide results, however when using OpenAthens full text content is provided. Without OpenAthens only limited content will be seen unless the article is freely available or open source. My colleague at the library ran the search 'battle for the mind' without logging in through OpenAthens and was provided with the results.

Taking all of this into account I am satisfied that the information requested is reasonably accessible by other means and thus exempt under section 21 of the Act. I would invite you to try undertaking the search again, using the above links.

I trust this letter answers your questions. Your rights are provided in **Appendix A**.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Lawrence | Legal Advisor
Information Management and Legal Team
College of Policing

Email: FOI@college.pnn.police.uk

Website: www.college.police.uk

Appendix A

Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of the College of Policing made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to information you can request that the decision is reviewed internally.

Internal review requests should be made in writing, within **forty (40) working days** from the date of the refusal notice, and addressed to: FOI team, Central House, Beckwith Knowle, Otley Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 1UF or email: FOI@college.pnn.police.uk

In all possible circumstances the College of Policing will aim to respond to your request for internal review within **20 working days**.

The Information Commissioner

If, after lodging an internal review request with the College of Policing you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/>.

Alternatively, write to:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Phone: 0303 123 1113